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THE SNAKE'S PASS.
 BY BRAM STOKER, M.A.

CHAPTER XI.

A DIFFICULT EXPLANATION.

"morrow evening!" Then there was hope; and with gladdened heart I heard her pass across the pasture and a path over the rocks. Her garments were incarnate grace; her eyes and her sweet presence filled the earth and air. When she passed I could not resist the sweet temptation to sit under the warm air to grow chill. For a long while I sat on that table, and my thoughts were of heavenly loveliness—all, save one, which was of the one brooding fear that although not be well—some danger I did not understand.

That is the point of contact in many of the most moving of the unknown between the seen and the unseen. The apprehensions part of the armour of human safety—are fears necessary to the great chain of destiny; and these places and keeps our feet on the appointed path? There are times when nature is at rest, and when the being is conscious of the great unknown. Suddenly, without cause, all changes, and though the air and the glamour of earth and sea are as before, there is a presence something dreaded to come. It is as if a blind guess of the infinite that created the old superstition that thunder without a cause was the evidence of some one had walked out of the future here. So I thought, as I in the Cliff Fields long after Norah disappeared.

And then I, too, arose, and took my way across the plateau, and climbed the rock and walked down the boreen to my way for Carnacilly.

And then, for the first time, did I feel that stroke me—some which for I had made my blood run cold—

"Ay—Dick! What about him? I suppose to me with a shudder, that my opinion—if it should be my happiness—must be based on the pain of my mind. Here, then, there was perhaps some to Norah's strange gravity which I had made me a proposal of marriage? He said he had a wife, why should he, no, not have been impulsive? Why should it not be his being the first to declare himself? I got a favourable answer and the Norah was not free to choose as strongly, then, there came back the recollection of Dick's readiness to be that evening, not to me, but you, his strangely chosen of situation from the present. It was very words seemed to come back so strongly that they seemed almost spoken beside me. I half turn to listen for them, as if they had come on the noise of the surf upon the rocks below. "If there be a word to me, my heart's desire, about the man." Every thing seemed to be in a whirl; everything was wrong except—such is I said—some of man—myself.

How I cursed the delay in finding out at last—how I cursed and found fault with every one and every thing! And especially came in for my ill-will. "I should have known my unknown man on the hill top at Knocknaree was none other than Norah!"

And yet, stay! who but Andy predicted in turning my thoughts to Norah more than once suggested that I should visit to Shleennanah to meet her? No! Andy must be acquitted on the common justice demands of the world. What could I do but to love Andy—not Dick, who was too noble and too loyal a friend to give any cause such a thought. Had he not asked me at the first the woman of my fancy as not this very woman; and had he not confessed his own love only when I answered him that it was not? Norah must be acquitted from blame on the common justice demands of the world. At present he was in the position of a wronged man, and it was not he who had wronged him—in ignorance, certainly, but still the wrong was mine and now what could I do? Should I tell Dick of it? I shrank from such a thing, and as yet there was little to tell of the morrow evening should I know my father's name. Was it not a such that it would be wiser not to tell Dick of it? Norah had asked me to consider my offer. If it should be that she had already promised Dick, and yet should have taken time to consider another offer, would it be fair to tell Dick of such hesitation, even though the result was a loyal adherence to him? It would be to tell him of a fair either to him or to her? No, I must not be told—no, yet, at events.

How, then, should I avoid telling him, in case the subject should crop up in the course of conversation? I had not told him of any of my late visits to Knocknaree, although, and I thought, they were of no great interest, but entirely in his; and my explanation seemed impossible.

Thus revolving the situation in my mind as I walked along, I came to the conclusion that the wisest thing I could do was to walk to some other place to stay there for the night. Thus I might avoid the morrow evening. On the morrow I could return to Carnacilly and go over to Shleennanah at such time as I might cross. Dick on my way, so that I might see Norah and her answer without any one knowing my visit. Having so made up my mind, I turned my steps towards Roundwood when I arrived there in the evening.

"Walked here, very tired; sleep here to-night; probably return to-morrow." The long walk did me good, for it made me thoroughly tired, and the night, despite my anxiety of mind, slept well—I went to sleep with Norah's name on my lips.

There are times when sleep can be no more pitiless punishment. There are times when the oblivion of the surroundings in the trust medicine for curing; and there are times when it is simply a common place factor in the machinery of life. To-night I might be the prey of devils or the beloved of the gods—there was in the immediate all the materials for any such thing, all the powers of the universe to choose to help this. But nature is a woman, and she follows her will. To-night her will was to ignore me, and I forgot all existence—over and over, even Norah's—until the morrow.

The next day I arrived at Carnacilly about midday. I found that Dick had written Andy to Knocknaree, and that he had started on his way from the foot of the boreen I was and set in a storm of trees, which

could not be seen, but from which I could watch the road; and presently saw Dick coming on Andy's car. When they had quite gone out of sight, I went on my way to the Cliff Fields.

I went with mingled feelings. There was hope, there was joy at the remembrance of yesterday, there was expectation that I should see her again—even though the road might be unhappy, the shadows might be dark, the night horrible, haunting dread. My knees shook, and I felt weak as I climbed the rocks. I passed across the field and sat on the table rock.

Presently she came to join me. With a queenly bearing she passed over the ground, seeming to glide rather than to walk. I was not sure of it, but as she drew near I could see in her eyes a sweet calm.

I went forward to meet her, and in silence we shook hands. She motioned to the boulder, and we sat down. She was less shy than yesterday, and seemed in many subtle ways to be, though not less girlish, more of a woman.

"I have been waiting for you," said my hand on hers, and said, and I felt that my voice was hoarse:

"Well!"

She looked at me tenderly, and said in a sweet, grave voice:

"My father has a claim on me that I must not overlook. He is all alone; he has lost my mother, and my brother is away and going into different parts of life from us. He has lost this land that he prized and valued, and that has been ours for a long, long time; and now that he is sad and lonely, and feels that he is growing old, how could I leave him? He that has always been so good and kind to me all my life! He has lost the time when manhood must have not taken away my hand, and she had not removed here; this negative of action gave me hope and courage.

"Norah! answer me one thing. Is there any other man between your heart and me?"

"No, no!" Her speech was impulsive, she stopped as suddenly as she began. A great weight seemed lifted from my heart; and yet there came a qualm of pity for my friend. Poor Dick! poor Dick!

I again we were silent for a minute. I was gathering courage for another question.

"Norah!"—I stopped; she looked at me.

"Norah! if your father had other objects in life, which would leave you free, what would be your answer to me?"

"Oh, do not ask me! Do not ask me!" Her tone was imploring; but she was not to be deterred. She must assert itself, even though the heart be torn with pity for woman's weakness. I went on:

"I must, Norah! I must! I am in torture till you tell me. Be truthful to me! Be merciful to me! Tell me, do you love me? You know I love you, Norah. Go! I have no heart but for you. The world has but one being in it for me; and you are that one! With every fibre of my being—with all my heart and soul, I love you! Won't you tell me, then, if you love me?"

A flush as rosy as dawn came over her face, and timidly she asked me:

"Must I answer you, Dick? If you must, Norah!"

"Then I do love you! God help us both! but I love you! I love you!" and tearing away her hand from mine she put both hands before her face and burst into a passionate flood of tears.

There could be but one ending to such a scene. In an instant she was in my arms. Her will and mine went down before the sudden flood of passion that burst upon us both. She hid her face upon my breast, but I raised it tenderly, and our lips met in one long loving, passionate kiss.

We sat on the boulder, hand in hand, and in our mutual confession of love, in the triumph of our love, all those little secrets of the growth of our affection that lovers hold dear. That final separation, which had been spoken of but a while ago, was kept out of sight by mutual consent; the dead would claim its dead soon enough. Love lives, and present and in the sunshine finds its joy.

Well, the men of old knew the human heart when they fixed upon the butterfly as the symbol of the soul; for the rainbow is but sunshine through cloud, and love, like the butterfly, takes the colours of the rainbow on its very wings!

Long after dark in that beauteous spot, high above us towered the overhanging rocks; the green of nature's plantain lay beneath our feet; and far off to the reflection of the sunset lightened the dimness of the soft twilight over the wrinkled sea.

We said little, as we sat hand in hand, but the silence was a poem, the sound of the sea the beating of our hearts were hymns of praise to nature and to nature's God.

We spoke no more of the future, for now that we knew that we were each beloved, the future had but little terror for us. We were content! We were content! We had our love and parted beneath the shadow of the rock. I watched her depart through the gleaming to her own home; and then I, too, took my way. At the foot of the boulder I met Murdoch, who looked at me in a strange manner, and merely growled some reply to my salutation, and then he went away.

I turned round, however, and looked after him and found to my surprise that he, too, had turned round and was looking at me. I could not so very well in the twilight and he was some distance away, but unless my inspiration misled me there was a look of warning on his face. He seemed startled, however, when he saw that I was looking at him, and suddenly turned and went hurriedly on his way. For the moment the incident disturbed me, but I soon forgot it about it for the time.

I felt that I could never meet Dick to-night, indeed, so I went down the hill, being content to wait for long on the crags above the sounding sea; and then wandered down to the distant beach. To and fro I went all the night long, but ever in sight of the hill, and over and anon coming near to watch the cottage where Norah slept.

On the early morning, I took my way to Roundwood, and going to bed, slept until late in the day.

When I woke, I began to think how I could break my news to Dick! I felt that the sooner it was done the better. At first I had a vague idea of writing to him from where I was, and then I concluded, would not do—it seemed too cowardly a way to deal with so true and loyal a friend—I would go now and await his arrival at Camascul, and

I called at the earliest moment when I could find an opportunity.
 I drove to Carnsill, and waited his coming impatiently, for I intended, if it were not too late, to afterwards drive over to Shleensannah, and see Nora, or at least the house she was in.
 Dick arrived a little earlier than usual, and I could see from the window that he was grave and troubled. When he got down from the car, he asked if I were at home, and answered in the affirmative. I ordered the dinner to be put on the table as soon as possible, and went up to his room.
 I did not come down until the waiter came to tell me that dinner was ready. Dick had evidently waited also, and followed me down. When he came into the room, he said to me:
 "Hallo, Art! old fellow—welcome back; I thought you were lost," and shook hands with me warmly.
 Neither of us seemed to have much appetite, but we pretended to eat, and sent away plates full of food cut up into the smallest proportions. When I made an apology for dinner was over, Dick asked me a cigar, lit his own, and said:
 "Come out for a stroll on the sand. Art; I want to have a chat with you." I could feel that he was making a great effort to appear hearty, but there was a hollowness about his voice which was not usual. As we went through the hall, Mr. Keating handed me my letters, which had just arrived. There was a larger packet than usual, but somehow, in the face of the ordeal which I felt was before me, the letters were not written which could interest me. I merely glanced at the envelopes and put them in my pocket, and then went back and read them later on. Dick had gone. He was strolling easily along, but as I came up behind him I could not but notice that he was braced up to his full height, and that his square massive shoulders were set well back. Dick had some earnest purpose before him, whatever it might be. I hurried on, and overtook him.
 We talked out on the wide stretch of fine sand which lies westward from Carnsill when the tide is out, and were a considerable distance from the town before a word was spoken. Dick turned to me and said:
 "Art, what does it all mean?"
 I hesitated for a moment, for I hardly knew where to begin, the question, so comprehensive and so sudden, took me aback. Dick went on:
 "Two things I have always believed; and I won't give them up without a struggle. One is that there are very few things that, no matter how strange or wrong they look, won't bear explanation of some kind; and the other is that an honourable man does not get crooked in a moment of the sort of thing. Art, that you would like to tell me?"
 "There is, Dick! I have a lot to tell; but won't you tell me what you wish me to speak about?" I was just going to tell him all, but it suddenly occurred to me that it would be wise to know something of what he was anxious to hear, and so I asked: "Might I add to his pain and complicate matters still worse?"
 "Then I shall ask you a few questions. Did you not tell me that the girl you were in love with was Nora Joyce?"
 "I did; but I was wrong. I did not know it at the time; I only found out, Dick, since I saw you last."
 "Since you saw me last! Did you not then know that I loved Nora Joyce, and that I was only waiting chance to ask her to marry me?"
 "I did!" I had nothing to add here; it came back to me that I had spoken my note all along without the least thought of my friend.
 "Have you not of late paid many visits to Shleensannah; and have you not kept such visits quite dark from me?"
 "I have, Dick."
 "Did you keep me ignorant of purpose?"
 "I did! But those visits were made entirely on your account." I stopped for a look of wonder and disgust spread over my companion's face.
 "On my account! on my account! And was it, Arthur Severn, on my account that you asked, as I presume you did, Nora Joyce to marry you? Is it on my account that you have been so honourable to her, at any rate—the woman whom I had told you I loved, and that I wished to marry, and that you assured me that you did not love your heart being fixed on another woman? I hate to speak so, Art, but I have had black thoughts, and am a little bitter myself, because of an account!" It was a terrible question to answer, and I paused. Dick went on:
 "Was it on my account that you, rich man, purchased the home that I loved; whilst I, a poor one, had to stand by and see her father despoiled day by day, and so on with hateful engagement, which placed me in a false position in her eyes as a suitor and a brother of that very position?"
 Here I saw daylight. I could answer this scathing question.
 "It was, Dick, entirely on my account that I drew away from you, and that I was facing me in the twilight as he spoke.
 "I should like you to explain, Mr. Severn, for your own sake, a statement like that."
 Then I told him, with simple earnestness, all the truth. How I had hoped to further his love, since my own seemed so hopeless—how I had bought the land intending to make it over to him, so that his hands might be strengthened, and that he might have a home and nothing else had taken me to Shleensannah; and that whilst the I had learned that my own unknown love and Nora were one and the same—of my proposal to her; and here he told him humbly how in the tumult of my own passion I had forgotten what I had done to her, and how, because of my long anxiety till her answer was given. I told him that I had stayed away the first night at Roundwood lest I should be betrayed in any speech which would lack in loyalty to him as well as to her. And then I told him of her decision to marry, and of my father's touching lightly on the confession of her love. I should give him needless pain. I did not dare to avoid it lest I should mislead him to his further harm. When I began to speak he stood strongly up, with his hand in the air and his eyes flashing, but he turned his head away and his bearing lost its stiffness. When I had finished he turned to me and said softly:
 "Art, I have been in much doubt whether I thought a moment, and then

membered that I had in my pocket the letters which had been handed to me at the hotel, and that amongst them there was one from Mr. Caiey at Galway. This letter I took out and handed to Dick.

"There is a letter unopened. Open it and it may tell you something. I know my word will suffice you; but this is in justice to us both."

Dick took the letter and broke the seal. He read the letter from Caiey and then he said to me, "So that is the dying light of the worst should fall on it, read it. The deed was not very long. When he finished it he stood for a moment with his hands down by his sides; then he came over to me and laying his hands, one of which grasped the deed, on my shoulders said—

"Thank God, Art, there need be no bitterness between me and thee; I am as you say, but oh! old fellow!"—and here he laid his head on my shoulder and sobbed—"my heart is broken. All the light has come out of my life!"

His despair was only for a moment! Recovering himself as quickly as he had been overcome, he said:

"Never mind, old fellow, only one of us must die, and now—Thank God! my secret is with you alone—no one else in the wide world even suspects. She must never know! Now tell me all about it; don't fear that it will hurt me; it will be something to know that you are both happy. He knows this, this had better be torn up; there is no need for it now." Having torn the paper, he did not put his hand over my shoulder as he used to do when we were boys; and so we passed into the gathering darkness.

Thank God for loyal and loyal manhood! Thank God for the heart of a friend that can suffer and remain true! And thanks, above all, that the lessons of tolerance and forgiveness, taught by the light of God, are now as then remembered by the sons of men.

When we were strolling back to the hotel Dick said to me:

"Cheer up, old fellow! You needn't be the least bit downhearted. As soon and see Joyce. He will not starve the girl's way. You may be sure he is in the land of the living, and he dearly—who could help it?"

I stopped for a moment here, and choked a great sob, but went on bravely:

"It is only like her to be willing to sacrifice her own happiness; but I must not be let to do that. Settle the matter soon. Go to-morrow to see Joyce and tell her that I am knocking instead of working with Murdoch; will leave the coast clear for you. Then we went into the hotel; and felt as if a great weight had been removed.

When I was undressing I heard a knock. "Come in," I called, and Dick entered. "I have a letter for you," he said; "it is from the girl who told herself and had won. His eyes were red, but there was a noble manliness about him which was beyond description."

"Art," said he, "I wanted to tell you something, and I thought it ought to be told now. I would like to talk to-night to you on any subject that interests between you and me. I hope you feel that my suspicion about fair play at the rest of it is all gone."

"I do, old fellow, quite."

"Well, you are not to get thinking of me as in any way wronged in the matter, either by accident or design. I have been going over the whole matter to-night, and the heart of my story and I think it might be said that no wrong could be done me. I never spoke a single word to Norah in my life. Nor did she to me. Indeed, I have seen her but seldom; though the first time was enough to finish me. Thank God! we have found out the true state of affairs. I thought too late. It might have been worse, old lad; it might have been worse. I don't think there's a record—even in the novels—of a man's life being wrecked over a girl he didn't know. We don't get his life to death's sight, old boy! It's only akin to this time, and though skin deep but it is the same. I don't think you would tell you what I had worked out for I knew we were such old friends that it would worry you and mar your happiness to think I was wretched. I hope—and I honestly expect—that to-morrow I shall be all right, and able to enjoy the sight of both of you. Good-night, please God! I hope such is to be."

We wrung each other's hands as I believe that from that moment we were closer friends than ever. As he was going, Dick turned to me and said:

"It is odd about the legend, isn't it? The snake is in the hill still, if I am not mistaken. He told me all about your visits and the sale of the land, and in order to make mischief. The legend is coming. St. Patrick will lift that crozier of his before long!"

"But the hill holds us all!" said he, and as I spoke there was an ominous feeling over me. "We're not thorough; but it will be all right now."

The last thing I saw was a smile in his face as he closed the door.

(To be continued.)

FATAL RESULT OF "A LARK"

Dr. G. Danford Thomas held inquest at St. Giles's Coroner's Court respecting the death of Frederick Maples Buer, aged 23, the son of W. B. Buer, of the Horse Shoe Hotel, Tottenham Court-road. The deceased was a healthy young man, who was out on a lark, and died at the hotel.

On Saturday morning, the 1st inst., shortly before one o'clock, after the house was closed, the deceased and William Butters, barman, had been in the bar when the former was subsequently described to his father as "a lark." They found an old hat were sitting in a high chair over the bar. While Butters held the hat, the arm of the deceased raised foot to kick it, and fell heavily on back on the floor. He at once apparently no worse for his fall, did he complain of any pain on Sunday morning, when he told the inquest that he was not hurt.

In the evening he went to Dr. S. Connor, of Soho-street, who found he had fractured the sixth rib on left side. The doctor strapped, bandaged him, and the deceased thereafter confined to his bed. Infirm supervened, and on the 3rd inst. he died. The cause was hyperthermic infection of morbid nature.

He died the same evening, death being due to shock and collapse following inflammation from a compound fracture of the rib, causing internal pressure and vomiting.—The deceased returned a verdict of accidental death.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

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THE GARDEN

[illegible]

OUR LIBRARY TAG

Can it be possible that in those "advanced" times, even the most uneducated young person needs tuition in authorship? Mr. Percy Russell seems to think so, or he would not have published "The Book of Puzzles" (Macmillan's) and "Long" for the guidance of the inexperienced. We could, without much difficulty, specify a considerable number of instances in which writers might derive much benefit from its suggestions. Not that there is the slightest chance of their condescending to look at the book; do they not already have the highest pianists at home already? We will, therefore, content ourselves with commending the well-written and always practical volume to those who have not yet reached into print. We do not by any means hold with all its teachings, but the wheat largely outweighs the chaff. "Macmillan's Treasury of Amusement" and "The Book of Puzzles" (Macmillan's), by E. L. Keyser is fairly well written, but entirely destitute of originality, except, perhaps, the marking of a baby's linen with such a pretty symbol as a dagger. We may note, too, that the hero miraculously gets promoted from captain to colonel in the short space of a few months. Evidently, there was some one to take care of "Dover" in his case. "The Book of Puzzles" (Saxon and Co.), by Don Lemon, and "Half Hour of Scientific Amusement" (Ward, Lock, and Co.), by Henry Frith, are excellently adapted to promote family amusement during those long winter nights which are not far off. They are of much diversion, but that Father Families may safely invest in the pair without any danger of duplication. In his "Shakespearean Vade-Mecum" (Beaumont and Co.), Mr. John Darlington essays to provide young folks with an assortment of brief quotations from the "immortal bard" which they may interlard their conversation. We cannot honestly wish well to the enterprise; it seems expressly devised for the manufacture of superficial prigs. Shakespeare should be studied intelligently and reverently or not be read at all; it would be simply unendurable to have him perpetually served up in homopoeitic globules. Alas, when the holiday season is about over, it does not lie so far behind but that enjoyment may be derived from Mr. Southey's "Our Holiday at the Seaside" (Diprose and Bateman). Some parts are exceedingly amusing, and would be still more so but for the frequent and irritating chronicling of the author's own personality. He also has yet to learn the saving virtue of condensation. Nevertheless, his seaside yarn is eminently readable as a fancy picture of life at Kamsgate.

A NARROW ESCAPE.
Mr. Edward Crossley, M.P., had a narrow escape of his life the other evening. He is at present the guest of Mr. Adams Acton, the sculptor, at Brockrick, in the Isle of Arran, and during service in the Free Church a portion of the plaster of the roof fell, the edge of the gallery breaking the fall. Both Mr. Crossley and the holiday season, the debris, and Mr. Crossley were stunned by a blow on the head. His hat was cut to pieces.

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WOODSTOCK CARPETS.—As many inquiries have been made

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OLD IZAAK.

PIPER PAN.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR

THE ACTOR.

GENERAL CHATTER.

MADAME.

MR. WHEELER.

BICYCLES—Great Auction Sale of Cycles, over 50 kinds, without reserve, on Monday, 24th September, Tuesday, 25th, at 6.0 p.m. Catalogues and all particulars apply to Messrs. J. & W. Wells, 100, Oxford-street, W. (Advt.)

ALLEGED THEFT OF A RING
At the Marlborough-street Police Cou

John Murray, 23, carman, Wild Court, Drury lane, Lewis Edwards, 27, commission agent, Charles Carrick, 37, tailor, Middle-street, Philip Fair, and Susan Ann Robertson, 45, cook, all of whom were charged with being concerned in stealing a gold ring, worth £10, the property of Mr. Walter Frost, jeweller, of High-street, Bloomsbury. Mr. Frost said that on the previous afternoon the woman who was charged with the offence, and who was his wife's maid, was asking to be shown some wedding rings, he placed some on the counter. At a moment when five were there, the prisoner Edwards came in, and asked for a particular kind of watch key which he did not keep. He, however, showed him some

other keys; and he said he would speak to the friend for whom he wished to purchase one, and left.

Robertson selected a ring, and asked him to wait for a moment, promising to call again after she had seen her husband. Immediately she had gone he pronounced that one of the rings had disappeared, and, calling his brother, asked him to follow the woman.—Mr. C. Frost said he saw the three other prisoners, when he was about fifty yards from the approach to her. She, however, made no motion to them, but he said to go on, and they kept at a short distance from her until about another fifty yards further on, when they stopped, and, the woman coming up to them, handed them a ring which they examined. They then called a constable, and gave them into custody. The ring had not been found.—Mr. Hannay remained the accused.

TEARING UP THE RED FLAG.

A meeting of London unemployed was called by the Socialists in Hyde Park on Sunday, and 600 persons assembled. The handbill calling the meeting was headed as follows: "The London Unemployed—Comrades.—A mass meeting will be held in Hyde Park on Sunday next, September 21. Turn up in your thousands, and assert your right to have either work or bread. Down with poverty and monopoly. A way must be found to employ the unemployed. Don't let the meeting." The proceedings were of a disorderly character, and Mr. Chapman, who attempted to speak, was received with groaning and hooting. After he had sat down a man named Mr Gormack said that the speaker was a fraud, and that the committee had no business to present him as one but themselves, and was only attempting to make money out of the poor of London. (Applause.) It was a Socialist dodge to create riot and smash windows. (A voice: That's no good to us.) He advised them not to have any more of these things. Chapman then said to the other speakers, "I am in possession of this speaker."

remarks were raised for Mr. Chapman to reply, but that gentleman had left the meeting, and there not appearing to be any other speakers or followers, the red flag, which was being held by a young man who said that he knew nothing of the meeting, was then seized, torn to pieces, the pole being broken.—A man named Markham then mounted the platform, and moved a resolution "protesting against the attempts on the part of Socialistic agitators to humbug work-

ing men who may be out of a job; and, further, asking that something may be done for us who have to sleep out on the embankment and sleep where."—This was answered by a man who gave his name as Hardinge, and was carried.—The meeting then dispersed.

"It is no good arguing with a policeman," says a youthful w—"for you will never get much change out of a copper."

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have been in use for nearly a quarter of a century, and have proved an instantaneous and powerful supporting remedy for all parts of the world. They are constructed on strictly scientific principles, are guaranteed to generate mild or strong currents, which are imperceptible to the senses, and are safe to use. They are positively the only conveyors known to the age for supporting the human frame with safety. Surgeons should call at the Company's Institute, and see them scientifically tested.

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THE LARGEST MEDICO-ELECTRIC INSTITUTION IN
THE WORLD.



A black and white illustration of a man in 18th-century attire. He is wearing a bicorne hat, a powdered wig, and a long coat with decorative buttons and cuffs. He is holding a sword and a small object in his hands. The illustration is signed 'C. 1781' in the bottom left corner.

MISS ELLEN TERRY.

A black and white woodcut illustration of a man in 18th-century military uniform. He wears a bicorne hat, a long coat with a high collar and decorative buttons, and breeches. He holds a sword in his right hand and has his left hand on his hip.

MR. W. TERRISS.

Respecting the remainder of the programme, little need be said. Owing to the length of time occupied by the "British Army Quadrille" no room could be found for the symphony promised by Mr. Freeman Thomas for each Saturday night during the remainder of the season. We may expect that his promise will be kept at each of the remainder

THE OUTLYING THEATRES.
Some fairly good performances have been given at the outlying theatres during the past week. At the Surrey, all the defects in "The Village Forge" having been remedied, this exciting drama is meeting with deserved enthusiasm from Mr. Conquest's patrons. A matinee will be given on Monday, and to-morrow (Monday) evening, which members of the theatrical and music hall profession are invited.—"Venus," which was played during the week at the Grand by Mr. Augustus Harris's company, is a bright and entertaining piece, with plenty of lively witticisms and opportunities for the introduction of variety business, and was, moreover, greatly aided by the excellent singing of the Lady Dumble, who undertook the title-role, shows great gratitude for the art she has lately taken to, but adopts at times a kind of languor of demeanour it would be advisable for her to depart from. The cast is almost the same as when the burlesque was revived in the provinces some months back, and the production is well acted by Miss G. Huntley, who assumes the character of Vulcan and Cupid respectively. In regard to attendance this has been one of the most successful engagements Mr. Wilmot has made lately. Next week the entertainment will be given by Mr. Frank Harvey, whose Company will present "Fallen Amongst Thieves"—a first-class out-and-out burlesque, and we assure you assume their wonted aspect now that the fiasco of the stonement has passed. At the Pavilion may be expected "The Dark Secret," with all its sensational adjuncts; at the Standard "The Pollies of the day" at the Britannia "The Pointeman;" and at the Stratford "Proof," whilst revivals are announced at the Worcester "The Two Orphans," at the Castle; "Master and Man" at the Marlborough; and "Jane Shere" at Sedgwick's Well.

business taken over by him. "Did you run the Opera Comique yourself?" "Not when I could help it; I was endeavouring to let it." The examination was adjourned to November 8th. Too much fuss is being made about the "desecration" of the great Sarah Siddons' grave in Paddington Churchyard, because in the interests of the living poor of the locality the space has been rightly laid out as a recreation-ground for children. The truth is that the flat gravestone of our greatest English actress is left surrounded by the iron railings originally set up to protect it.

BEDFORD MUSIC HALL.

ANOTHER THEATRICAL FRAGAS. There must surely be something very peculiar in the atmosphere of London theatres, for on Saturday night, in the otherwise serene and aristocratic stalls of the Lyceum some exasperating words addressed by a gentleman unknown to two well-known literateurs, caused a disorder which nearly prevented the insulting language by smiting the utterer upon the crown of his head with his folded Gibus. A hand to hand fight would have ensued had the wrathful combatants not been held off by arms apart by their friends, upon which was restored and the performance proceeded.

FRENCH SWINDLERS.

Two classes of chevaliers d'industrie find certain sections of Parisians easy prey to their wiles. The first is formed of persons representing themselves individually to be count or a marquis, although their names do not appear in the recognized passport of any country. The second consists of persons who start a bogus bank and promise depositors ruinous rate of interest. Two of the former category are awaiting their trial at the moment, and the police are actively searching for a lady calling herself a countess, who for the last month has been swindling hotel proprietors, restaurant keepers, and cabmen on a pretty extensive scale. The latter are also after two men who recently obtained a "blank" passport from the police, furnished with a hire system, in the Rue Dundergoe. By extensive circularising they obtained numerous clients, who in the course of month deposited with them sums amounting to about £4,000. This week, when some of the investors went to draw the interest promised every month, they found the office closed and the bankers gone. Complaint was made to the police, who broke openly and impounded the few letters left on the table. "The broke, the few letters, a number 'dummes,' " they were none. The money the bankers had omitted to take with them was a half-franc piece.

IS IT TRUE?

The *Gazette* tells the following curious story of a rich Russian, Monsieur N., who some years ago built a pretty little villa on the banks of the Seine, between Auteuil and Courbevoie. His young wife having been murdered by a peasant who had sworn to revenge upon him. He went to France, where he has since resided. Some weeks ago he went to Switzerland. During his absence his cook discovered, in a room the door of which her master usually kept locked a trunk which greatly excited her curiosity. The trunk was locked, but the woman had it opened and found that it contained a female corpse in good preservation. Supposing that a crime had been committed, she rushed off to the police station with her information. The police commissary, however, happened to know Monsieur N. and would not suspect him of a murder. The official accordingly wrote to the Russian, and received in return a telegram announcing the latter's immediate return. On Monsieur N.'s arrival he informed the police commissary that the mysterious corpse was that of his murdered wife, who he had embalmed and brought with him to France. Monsieur N. was informed that the French law does not allow of bodies of murdered women being thus embalmed, whereupon he replied that, in case he should not be able to obtain a special authorization, he would leave France, taking with him the body of his unfortunate wife.

CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY.
The Thapsall conspirators were charged on Thursday in hearing several charges of conspiracy to defraud. The two prisoners—Albert Parton, of Blackburn, and Robert Crowndrup, of Hanley—were charged with conspiracy to obtain goods by false pretences at Newark, the property of Messrs. Fowler and Co., biscuit manufacturers, of Farnley, and also with attempting to obtain goods by false pretences from Messrs. Fowler and Co., preserve manufacturers, of Stockport.—The Deputy Town Clerk, who prosecuted, said that perhaps the cases appeared to be only small, but they were really part of a system extending over the whole country. It seemed to be the practice of the men to go to various towns and take separate lodgings in different parts of the town, and then write to firms for goods, each giving the other as a reference. While the goods were in transit they were sold to other tradesmen. The prisoners had adopted the same system in several large towns in the kingdom.—They were committed for trial.

THE HOP HARVEST.

The hop harvest, the Kentish Observer says, is drawing to a close everywhere. The late hops are a much larger crop than had been expected, and the quality is excellent, thanks to the late fine weather. The trade in the Borough is fairly active, but merchants are by no means prepared to pay the high prices demanded by the holders of choice East Kent. The top selling price for these remains at £218. Judging from the reports to hand from America there will not be much of a surplus for exportation to England, except for the Pacific Coast. The American growers had better keep their hops in the country, as they will fetch more remunerative prices there than they are worth here. In this country our crop is small one, but there will not be a hop famine far from it. The supplies from the continent and the stocks of old hops in the country will be sufficient for home wants. As showing the shortage of this season's crop compared with last year, we may mention the following facts, using figures in place of the names of the growers:—1, had 169 pockets in 1890, and had only 7 in 1891; 2, had 1,361 pockets last year, 350 this; 3, 69 pockets in 1890, and 15 this; 4, 189 pockets in 1890, and 151 this; 5, 89 pockets in 1890, and 15 this; 6, 108 from 40 acres, 7, about 100 from 70 acres, 8, 108 from 70 acres, 9, 108 from 70 acres, 10, 108 from 70 acres, 11, 108 from 70 acres, 12, 108 from 70 acres, 13, 108 from 70 acres, 14, 108 from 70 acres, 15, 108 from 70 acres, 16, 108 from 70 acres, 17, 108 from 70 acres, 18, 108 from 70 acres, 19, 108 from 70 acres, 20, 108 from 70 acres, 21, 108 from 70 acres, 22, 108 from 70 acres, 23, 108 from 70 acres, 24, 108 from 70 acres, 25, 108 from 70 acres, 26, 108 from 70 acres, 27, 108 from 70 acres, 28, 108 from 70 acres, 29, 108 from 70 acres, 30, 108 from 70 acres, 31, 108 from 70 acres, 32, 108 from 70 acres, 33, 108 from 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SERIOUS CARRIAGE ACCIDENT

A serious accident has occurred near Gorton, a village in Jersey. A party of five, including the island's governor, were in a motor wagon on the hill, when the trace broke, and the horse became unmanageable, ran against a wall. The vehicle overturned, and the occupants, eight in number, were thrown out. All were all more or less injured. Mrs. Buckle (Birmingham) had her thigh fractured; J. Langston (manager of Peterfield Union) who was driving, had his arm broken; Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard (Burton-on-Trent and London) were severely bruised, the latter having to be conveyed to the hospital.

THE REVOLVER NUISANCE.

At the North London Police Court, Thursday, Percy Vass Farr, 25, well-dressed, described as of no occupation, and of Darenth road, Stamford Hill, was charged before Mr. Hadden Corser with unlawfully presenting a loaded revolver at P.S. 54 N. with intent to do violence, inside the White Hart public-house, High-street, Stoke Newington. The prosecutor stated that on the previous night at 11.30, he was off duty, and, in company with two other officers, at the White Hart having a glass of beer. He was in uniform and his companions were in plain clothes. The prisoner tried to force his conversation upon them. He asked witness to talk with him; but this was refused. He then threatened bad language, and demanded that he "do" for witness. Witness told the prisoner to be quiet, and mind his own business; he did not want anything to do with him. Witness made a move towards the door, and the prisoner followed him, at the same time putting his hand in his right hip-pocket, and again saying he would "do" for witness. P.S. Haynes, who was in the next compartment, pushed the prisoner from the table, and P.S. Romaine took hold of him, and Haynes took the revolver from his hand. The revolver (produced) was a five-chambered one, and was loaded in two chambers. The prisoner was rather drunk, and said he did not care for any man in the metropolitan police. Witness added that he thought that if it had not been for the two officers named the prisoner would have carried away his threat. — Mr. W. G. Phillips, cashier, of Rectory-road, said that at the White Hart for a drink. He saw a struggle in the street, and the prisoner distinctly say, "I have something in my pocket which will murther you smart." Witness did not see any weapon, but looked after himself and his dog, and cleared out. — Mr. Romaine, for the defence, said the whole affair arose from the unusual circumstance of a policeman refusing to buy a drink. (Laughter.) There was no words on both sides, and the policeman was not hit, and did not fight, whereupon

the prisoner, without any intention of using the weapon, that he had something in his pocket which would not harm them smart. Mr. Romain added that his client was a gentleman of independent means, and studying for a medical profession.—Mr. Hadam Corser more senseless practice than carry loaded revolvers he could not imagine. persons in that district had already lost lives through the practice, and no doubt the hands of a man who put the revolver in his pocket with an intention of using it for a month with hard labour.—The prisoner had a revolver only two days, and no licence to carry the same, and the magistrate directed the officers to inform revenue authorities of this, so as to receive a licence.—The prisoner, Edmond Denning asked what was to be done with revolver.—The Magistrate: It belongs to prisoner, and he must have it if he asks to have it.

SHOP WRECKING AT CHERTSEY

It will be remembered that a few weeks ago a tradesman, named Avery, of Chertsey, over-seer of the poor, exhibited an effigy of a deceased county court bailiff on the wall of the latter's burial. The effigy was in view at the funeral procession, passed Avery's shop, and this so incensed the populace that the premises were attacked at night and wrecked, the offender himself narrowly escaping being lynched. He had to go to Chertsey on the following day. Avery is now put in a claim for £400 upon the Surrey County Joint Standing Committee for the goodwill of his business, besides £200 for damages. The owner of the premises also claims damages.

The Count de Paris and the Duke d'Orléans
 left Liverpool for New York on Wednesday evening in the White Star steamer *Germ*.

HOUSE OF RATS clears out Rats, Mice, Roaches, Bugs, Fleas, Beetles, Moths, Ants, Bed-bugs, Horn Lice, &c. &c. &c. **SPURRY** Cures Rashes, Scabies, Gout, Rheumatism, Mumps, Stiff Neck, Jack Rabbits, Strains, &c. &c. &c. **ROSE**, at Chemists. - **P. NEWBY** and **SON**, 45 King Edward Street, London, E.C.1. (A.S.)

WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.

One of the workmen's dwellings companies is a concern, it says, started a fashionable suburb by purchasing for £20,000 an estate in the midst of a district where the rents range from £70 to £250. When it became known that it was intended to build workmen's dwellings on the estate the property owners became fearfully alarmed, and the probability now is that the company will sell the land at a handsome profit. But the working man will soon be able to see in the paper that the company is from Charles Cross. All the companies run workmen's trains, and in a few years it is expected that there will be an exodus of the better class of artisans from the slums into the country.

BUILDING SOCIETY FRAUDS.
An official report has been issued of the great building society frauds at Llanberis, which have caused a great sensation throughout the principality. There are now 100,000 members in the Nant Fawr Building Society, and nearly all are working men engaged at the slate quarries. Mr. Thomas, the auditor appointed to investigate the books reports that 40 per cent. of the entire capital of the society has been stolen by the late secretary, David Jones, who held the post for many years, and enjoyed the complete confidence of the shareholders. It transpired that the books were regularly and efficiently audited, but the secretary misled the auditor by presenting for his examination a complete set of bogus books, those showing the real transactions of the society being retained. The members of the society were presented with correct tickets showing the nature of their transactions, but "cooked" tickets were placed before the auditor for every instance. For example, Mr. Thomas, the auditor, has discovered seventy-two cards belonging to ordinary shareholders representing defalcations of £2,538. He officially reports that in June last the finances of the society stood as follows:—Ordinary shares, £24,231 7s.; preference shares, £4,361 16s. 6d.; total liabilities, £29,493 3s. 6d. sum advanced on mortgages, £17,747 10s. 6d.; cash, &c., &c., £1,400 10s. 6d.; £2,533 15s. 6d., or 40 per cent., or 24 of every 110 shares. To this loss has to be added £1,110 2s. 10d. of a reserve fund, and £835 15s. 7½d. undivided profits, which have both disappeared, making the total defalcations £11,509 11s. The frauds were detected by Mr. Job Owen, the new secretary of the society. He took over the books in March last, on the death of the late secretary, and, in ascertaining that there were serious irregularities reported the matter to the directors and trustees, who ordered a thorough investigation with the above results.

THE PARSON AND THE BURGULARS
William Jones, 22, a costermonger; William Sampson, 24, a painter, of no fixed home; and John Denton, 33, a commission agent, of 10, Brownlow-road, Forest Gate, were charged, at West Ham Police Court, with being concerned in breaking and entering, on Sunday, the 21st inst., and stealing, from a large quantity of jewellery and plate articles, valued at £15, the property of Robert Ward, a Congregational minister.—Prosecutor said he had been away from home, and on Sunday, the 21st inst., returned at about half past eight o'clock. He could not get in

with his key, and found the door fastened from the inside. There were lights on a candle and a glow from a gasolene lamp, but "Who is there?" some one opened the door and made a statement to the effect that if no violence was used they would surrender. Assistance was procured, and Sampson and Jones were secured by a Harris and a Mr. Stewart. Witness assisted in taking Sampson to the front prison room, and Jones to the rear, with Inspector DeLoach. The house was in great disorder, and in the room where he had seen the light there were a crucet and bottles, two bracelets, five brooches, and a gold earring, besides a fruit stand. The fruit stand and crucet stand were usually kept in a box in another back room. He did not see a crucet at the front door, but he saw a crucet in the room, in the employ of the prosecutor, stated that on September 21st she left the house safe and properly fastened at about six o'clock. She was by the front door, fastened by a spring catch lock. All the rooms were then ordered to be searched.

—George Alexander Stewart, of 213, H. A. Park-road, a solicitor, deposed that he saw no blood, no marks, no signs of violence, he heard no one go to the back garden. He heard prosecutor call out "Who there?" He went to the front door, and seeing some one holding it, he returned to the back. As he was climbing the fence he heard an upstairs window thrown open, and a voice which he afterwards recognized as that of a woman, say "If you go on, we've no chance of escape; if you don't use violence we will come down." Witness went to the front door and saw two men the other side of the window. They made him promise not to use violence, and then they unbolted the door and came out.—Other evidence given and the prisoners were remanded to prison asserting that he could prove Alibi.

The chairman of the Canterbury Gas & Water Company on Thursday announced that, as a result of the coal strike, the charge for gas in Canterbury would have to be increased 3d. per thousand feet, bringing the cost to 3s. 1d. per thousand feet.

CURE OF DEAFNESS, NOISES IN THE EAR.
REV. H. J. SILVERTON will be happy to give advice free of cost, to any sufferer. Over twenty years' experience. New Treatise, post free, six stamps.
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The Best and Strongest LONDON MADE THREE-QUART

PLATE ENGLISH LEVER ever sold at the price. **CH**
meter Balance, fully Jewelled with Rubies, Patent Dust
Damp Proof, Ring Band, and Extended Barrel. Spec
recommended for rough wear both at home and abroad.

THOUSANDS HAVE BEEN SOLD,
Unequalled at the price.

Made in four sizes at the same price;—Small for Gentlemen and Youths; Medium for Working Men generally; Large for Miners and Railway Men; and Extra Small

Ladies.
In Sterling Silver Crystal Glass Cases, 25 5c.
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Lady's size, £10 10s.

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INQUESTS

PURITY OF BLOOD
ENSURES A GOOD COMPLEXION

IMAGINARY AILMENT

"WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD."

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BRAGGI'S OINTMENT

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GREAT SPECIFIC

SCHEMA, FILMS, BOLLS, ANSCHEERS, BURNS, SCAL
HTG.

Dear Sirs.—Last Tuesday my little boy fell down and his forehead open, making a deep wound. If I had taken to the hospital they would have put some stitches in which would have disfigured him. I used your Finister, was surprised to find yesterday that it has all healed there is nothing left but the scar.

I know from so many instances that have come under notice that it is the most wonderful healer that has come before the public, and I trust that it will have a circulation.—With thanks, Yours respectfully,

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STRAINS, BRUISES, CUTS, AND WOUNDS, AND
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 5 and 11, Wilson-street, Finsbury, E.C.

THE PEOPLE MIXTURE.

No man is as good at home as he looks in his neighbour's album.

The man who gets into a lawyer's hands is generally both plaintiff and defendant.

The bootblack is sensible—he knows he must begin at the foot of the shoe.

A lover looks unutterable things, and so does a man with a red-hot potato in his mouth.

There are at present no fewer than 71 men in New York, all claiming to be the "strongest on earth."

Some people's efforts to unite style and comfort remind one of a pair of starched cuffs on a flannel shirt.

At the instigation of the Tunbridge Farmers' Club, a movement has been started for presenting a testimonial to General Brodhead, M.P., in recognition of his services in connection with the recent hop industry inquiry.

Preparations are being made in Vienna for the visit of the German Emperor, who will arrive there on Wednesday next. His Majesty will occupy the Schonbrunn Palace, which was selected for him on account of his having, when a prince, stayed there with the late Crown Prince Rudolph.

There was a gathering of Italians at Freemasons' Tavern on Monday to celebrate the entry of the Italian troops into Rome. A feature of the proceedings was the presentation of a flag to the veterans of the campaign of 1870-71. A concert and dinner followed, the toast of "The Queen" and "King Humbert" being warmly received.

A new epidemic of influenza has broken out within the past week in Pest and some of the provincial towns of Hungary. The influenza which made such havoc in Vienna last winter has again broken out there. The symptoms are the familiar ones of fever, catarrh, and gastric attacks. After three or four days the patients begin to recover, but remain very weak.

The two ocean greyhounds, the White Star steamer Teutonic and the Inman and International Company's steamer City of New York, have completed their passage from New York to Queenstown under six days. The run of the City of New York was the quicker by a few minutes; but it is claimed for the Teutonic that she made a more southerly course, and thereby covered a greater distance.

According to telegrams received at Liverpool the town of Colon has been partially destroyed by fire. The wharves, however, were saved, and through traffic to Panama and the Pacific coast is not interrupted. Colon is particularly liable to damage by fire, owing to the houses being mostly built of wood, to withstand the vibrations of the frequent earthquakes by which the place is visited. The town was destroyed by a conflagration as recently as 1885.

The annual conference of the Young Men's Christian Association of Great Britain was opened in Birmingham on Tuesday, the members being received by the Mayor of the borough in the Council House. Dr. Dale, in addressing the delegates, strongly urged the desirability of placing before young men the best authorities on questions relating to the borderland between philosophy and religious faith.

A white blackbird, if the description is not a misnomer, is to be found in the Pyrenees. It is a bird of the same plumage as the blackbird, but with white feathers, although it was in other respects identical with its companion. The bird was shown to the Minister of Public Instruction on the occasion of his visit to Perpignan.

The receipts on account of revenue from the lot of April, when there was a balance of £25,239,231, to the 26th of September, were £27,936,922, against £26,254,324 in the corresponding period of 1889, which began with a balance of £25,292,002. The net expenditure was £27,300,517, against £27,625,690, to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on the 26th inst. amounted to £2,114,829, and at the same date in 1889 to £2,723,434.

Miss Smith, a young woman, living in Church-street, Edmonton, was travelling on the Great Eastern Railway from Edmonton to Burch Hill Park, the company of three youths. Some "larking" took place in the carriage, and Smith was pushed against the door, which flew open while the train was in motion. She fell upon the line, and her head and shoulder were severely injured, and her legs and arms were broken. She was removed to Tottenham Hospital.

Extensive building operations have just been commenced at Aldershot for the construction of new barracks in the south camp, where the four regiments are being moved. It is nearly a million and a half to be spent at Aldershot in the new structures, and in rebuilding and enlarging the old barracks and huts, so that a much larger portion of the First Army Corps may be accommodated in the camp than has hitherto been quartered there.

Matilda Munroe, of Little-road, Fulham, was summoned by the County Council to the West London Police Court, for not having, as by law required, given the particulars of an infant she had received to nurse for hire, or reward, while she was registered under the Infant Life Protection Act. She was fined £5 and costs; and in another case, where the magistrate was of opinion that she had withheld information from the coroner to prevent inquiry, she was sent to prison for one month with hard labour.

The Bishop of Salisbury opened the last of five schools started in that city by the voluntary effort of members of the Church for the purpose of imparting elementary education. It was in consequence of the decision of the School Board not to supply the educational deficiency which existed until voluntary resources were exhausted that the effort was made. The bishop expressed a hope that the outcome of it would be divided of religious differences, and a prominent non-conformist of the city joined with him in recognising the importance of elementary education.

The new Unionist Club at Leyton was opened on Tuesday night, in the presence of a large gathering of members and friends. The proceedings took the form of a smoking concert, the programme of which was sustained by amateur talent, both local and of visitors. In the course of the evening a large number of new members of the club were enrolled. Mr. D. J. Morgan, in the absence of Colonel Makins, M.P., the sitting member, and Mr. E. Widdington Byrne, O.C., the Unionist candidate, delivered addresses on the chief political topics of the day.

Three persons, a man, his wife, and a female friend, were charged at the Marlborough-street Police Court, the two former with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting the police in Hyde Park, and the latter with attempting to rescue them from custody. Private Clarke, of the Coldstream Guards, assisted the police, and in the struggle he sustained an injury to his arm, and his trousers were torn. He informed the magistrate that, by the Army regulations, he would have to replace the damaged trousers at his own expense. Mr. Manser ordered a com-

munication to be made to the Police Commissioner.

Seven deaths in London last week were caused by horses or vehicles in the streets.

The Metropolitan coroners were last week informed of nine deaths by drowning.

There were 2,333 births and 1,375 deaths in the metropolis last week.

Different forms of violence were responsible for forty-three deaths last week in the metropolis.

It is expected that next year's census will show for the whole of India a population of 270,825,116.

There was last week not a single death from small-pox in any of the twenty-eight great towns of England and Wales.

During the past seventy-three years, the American Bible Society has distributed over 32,730,000 copies of the Scriptures.

There are now about two and a quarter millions of acres in Scotland occupied by deer forests.

Spring Post: What did the editor say when you gave him my card, Tommy?—Office Boy: Can't tell, sir, we ain't allowed to swear.

The lover of Carrie Long, a New York girl, was madly jealous of her. Both he and she are now dead—killed by his hand.

The result of the work of the revision courts at Birmingham is that the Unionist party claim a gain of 1,335 votes.

The London School Board are educating 20,886 more scholars than they were three years ago.

It is calculated that a man walking day and night could make a journey round the earth in 425 days. Some fool will be trying this one day.

A well-known American woman, Olive Thorne Miller, has invented a title for a certain type of woman. She calls them "philanthropy fends."

The price of a wife in Siberia is eight dogs; but not knowing the market price of dogs in Siberia, it is difficult to say whether this is cheaper or a wife or not.

Last year's consignment of Scotch salmon to Billingsgate was the smallest since 1830, being only 21,000 boxes, as against 30,000 in 1885 and 35,000 in 1883.

When you see a man sit down in a barber's shop, pin the newspaper down his neck, and commence to read the towel, you can put him down as absent-minded.

During the past few years, 1,000 Salvationists have been convicted, and 700 were prosecuted but not convicted, for offences involving the right of procession.

When Mr. Frederick Horn, of Hoboken, New Jersey, discovered that his daughter had hanged herself, he at once endeavored to end his own life by shooting himself.

A man has died at Mount Vernon, in New York State, from blood poisoning, caused by some pieces of glass which got into his hand by the explosion of a soda-water bottle.

Queen Christina of Spain is fond of the opera, but dislikes appearing before public audiences. She overcomes this difficulty by listening to the opera through the telephone.

Host (carving small bowl): Now, I don't know which party you prefer, gentlemen.—Six Guests (simultaneously): A lot, please!—Host: Gentlemen, this ain't no blooming centipede.

"Paradise" by Tintoretto, is the largest painting in the world. It is 84 feet wide, 33 feet high, and is now in the Doge's Palace, Venice.

Dr. Mendel, of Berlin, has discovered that coffee intoxicates. It would be interesting to know how many cups the doctor drank before he arrived at this conclusion.

Miss Charlotte Mary Yonge, though 67, is still busy writing. The story of such a time as Victorianism on which she is now engaged, will be her hundred and first book.

The smallest newspaper in the world, at least in America and Europe, is published at Arp, Banks county, Ga. It is 7½ inches by 5 inches, and is named The Bee.

The City Police Committee propose that a fourth class of constables shall be added to the City police force, consisting of recruits and young constables at a salary of 25s. 7d. a week.

There is a novel kind of strike going on in Asheville, N.C. The housewives there are striking for better servants, and are actually going to form a union with a view of securing efficient "help."

At Southampton Police Court, Frederick Shears, a prominent local member of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union, was charged on remand with intimidation. After an apology from the defendant, the case was withdrawn.

William B. Perkins, of Washington, and Miss Nattie Dahl, of Philadelphia, hold the marriage record. They were introduced at Atlantic City, took a stroll on the beach, and were married all within half an hour.

There is said to be a young lady at Clifton Springs, N.Y., who has such a good chocolate cake that her skin is rapidly assuming a chocolate hue. The shopkeepers for miles around will not now supply her.

A bundle of spider webs, not larger than a buckshot, and weighing less than one drachm, would, if straightened out and untangled, reach a distance of 350 miles. The man who reckoned this up is now dead.

Wood and iron will soon be quite out of fashion. Houses, bridges, and even steam engines have been made of paper, and now they are commencing to make horse-shoes from cowhide instead of iron.

The Cochins China people strike two pieces of bamboo together and ignite tinder. The coating of amorphous silic-like flint on the surface of the bamboo yields a spark at a sharp blow.

An authority on suicide has it that women in England seek death according to the following order of preference—Hanging, poisoning, precipitation, drowning, cutting, poison.

The fund which is being raised for the relief of the old and destitute survivors of the Light Brigade who took part in the gallant and desperate charge at the battle of Balaclava, has now reached a total of £25,500.

Last year we turned out 8,245,336 tons of crude iron, and the United States 7,032,842 tons, while in the same twelve months we produced 945,048 tons of steel rails against the Americans 1,310,057.

Monroe, Caird and Co., shipbuilders, Greenock, have contracted to build and engine for the Greenock Steamship Company two steamers of 5,000 tons for the Gulf Line. These will be the largest steamers the company have.

There were 33 deaths from measles in London last week, 14 from scarlet fever, 35 from diphtheria, 33 from whooping-cough, 21 from enteric fever, 84 from diarrhoea and dysentery, and 3 from cholera and choleraic diarrhoea.

As a gentleman, named M. de Stuers, who is stated to be a brother of the Dutch Minister in Paris, was taking a walk round the fortifications of Mainz he was arrested on a charge of being a foreign spy. On giving satisfactory explanations, however, he was immediately set at liberty.

A meeting of the general committee of the Royal Naval Exhibition was held on Tuesday at 6, Craig-street, Admiral Sir William Dorell was elected chairman, and Admiral Sir William Houston Stewart vice-chairman of the general committee. Mr. Edmund H. Lloyd, manager of the Royal Military Exhibition, was appointed manager. The guarantee fund was announced as £33,703.

Electricity puts a girle round the earth in a little less than a tenth of a second.

Who was the benefactor of his species who, in 1817, first stationed donkeys on Hampstead Heath?

In Philadelphia there is a mendicant known as "Blind Johnny," who is reputed to be worth £2,000.

Londoners live, on an average, to an age of 37 years. In most parts of the country the standard is below this.

It is appalling to observe how frightfully advanced each other the popular novelist and the general public appear to be.

The figure mentions a forthcoming interview between the Czar and the Emperor of Austria.

To see also cats is generally thought to be exceedingly unlucky, and to feel nine tails is conceded by those with experience to be extremely unpleasant.

Cricketers don't get much rest in the summer. When other people are busy with their outings, the cricketer has to take his innings.

The Home Secretary has appointed Mr. Robert Ernest Graves to be one of her Majesty's inspectors of factories and work-shops.

It is averred that the census will dispel the idea that the population of the Highlands is decreasing on account of deer forests. Recent computations place the decrease at about 25 per cent. in the last fifty years.

Boulanger is said to be engaged during his retirement in Jersey upon an answer to the revelations which have been making so much stir of late. It will take the form of a book of 200 pages.

Sir Charles and Lady Hall have arrived in Europe from their successful Australian tour. They intend to spend two or three months in the Italian lakes before returning to England.

At Brighton, Nellie Saunders, aged 10 years, pleaded guilty to picking pockets in the King's-road. This was not her first conviction. She was sentenced to four years in a reformatory.

At Old Calabar, according to an African missionary, girls of 10 and 12 years of age are fattened up preparatory to matrimony. The fatter the bride the wider will be the purses of the bridegroom to be opened.

In some parts of China they have pleasant little ways of punishing people. At Wuhu a priest was recently placed in a large straw cage saturated with oil, and then made clanders in of 5th of November fashion.

Mr. S. Lee Bayly has accepted the appointment offered him by the governor of Jamaica to act as general manager of the International Exhibition to be held in Jamaica from January to April next.

One of the most cherished volumes in Mr. Gladstone's library is a present from Hannah Moore, in 1815, when she was 70 years of age. "Holy Hannah," as Horace Walpole called her, was very fond of young "Billy" Gladstone.

"Wrinkles removed while you wait," is a sign displayed in Twenty-third-street, New York. If this can be done, things will get to such a pass that a man will have to look sharp to distinguish his best girl from her renovated grandmother.

A wealthy widow, residing at Molsheim, Alsace, was arrested at the moment of crossing the French frontier on the charge of aiding her son to escape to France when called upon for military duty. The lady had previously disposed of all her property in Alsace.

Speed is going to have a try at defeating forty-five days in New York. It is said that the purely a matter of will power, which he describes as "an electric force generated within himself." This will be his thirty-fourth fast.

Chicago has a Friday Club, composed of about 100 young ladies, who meet weekly and indulge in literary and social intercourse. Tea is given periodically, to which the husbands and brothers of the members are invited.

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Speed is going to have a try at defeating forty-five days in New York. It is said that the purely a matter of will power, which he describes as "an electric force generated within himself." This will be his thirty-fourth fast.

Chicago has a Friday Club, composed of about 100 young ladies, who meet weekly and indulge in literary and social intercourse. Tea is given periodically, to which the husbands and brothers of the members are invited.

George Christopher Guppy, a Weymouth baker, put the chain he used in his work round his neck, and hung himself over a trap door. He was found by his wife, who had gone to ascertain if he was ready for church.

The Irishman of the province of Canterbury, N.Z., have just consigned a wedding present for Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., in the shape of a magnificent cabinet, made expressly for the purpose, of native New Zealand wood.

According to a correspondent three families of Belgian emigrants have returned to Antwerp from Buenos Ayres in a profound state of destitution, having, from their account, met in the Argentine Republic with nothing but deception and misfortune. Emigrants of British nationality have ceased going to the River Plate via Antwerp.

At Glasgow, James Simpson, who had for many years carried on business as a music seller there, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for having, as a janitor, within four months, his sequestration, pawned four pianos, valued altogether at £75. It was stated that his business was ruined by the competition of the International Exhibition three years ago.

At Fermo, a boy aged six years, son of Mr. Punch, tea and wine merchant, was bitten by a mastiff which he was about to fondle. The animal also bit the coachman who went to the boy's assistance. Three veterinary surgeons were summoned. In the barber's shop eight men examined the dog they pronounced it to be suffering from a virulent type of rabies. The dog was at once shot. Mr. Punch has taken his son to Paris for treatment by M. Pasteur.

A convict named John Begley, 29, formerly a soldier, has committed suicide at Chatham Convict Prison by hanging himself with his hammock strap to the bars of an iron ventilator in his cell. He was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude at a general court-martial at Delhi, India, in July, 1887, and had been at Chatham two years and a half. A verdict of temporary insanity was returned at the inquest.

Fifty-two summonses for betting were heard by the Blackburn magistrates during a sitting of five hours, and penalties amounting to nearly £200 were inflicted. Raids were made by policemen on the evening of the St. Leger race upon a barber's shop and several public-houses. In the barber's shop eight betting books showing large transactions were seized from bookmakers doing business there. Five of the keepers of the houses were fined £10 each, and fourteen others were fined £5 each and costs.

At St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, the marriage took place on Wednesday of Sir Edgar Vincent, K.C.M.G., financial adviser to the Government, and the daughter of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Cairo, and Lady Helen Venetia Duncombe, second daughter of Earl and Countess of Faversham, of Duncombe Park, Herts, and Belgrave-square, and sister of the Duchess of Leinster and Lady Cynthia Graham of Neiberth. The bride wore a dress of white and gold, and the groom a dark suit of rich silver, and slightly open at the throat; ruff of point lace, and a full court train, adorned with lilac wrought in delicate needlework, and fastened on the shoulder with silver cord.

Her veil was of point lace, and her ornaments a diamond necklace and star.

Mr. W. Johnson, of Brompton, has sent £1,000 to the Middlesex Hospital.

The harvest in France is estimated to have yielded 325,570,533 bushels of wheat.

Sir George Trevelyan urges that the holdings of the crofters should be enlarged.

Nearly 2,000,000 people have visited the Edinburgh Exhibition—to be exact, 1,922,415.

A woman was the cause of the quarrel between William Dean and Patrick O'Connor at Grand Rapids, Michigan. O'Connor is now dead, shot by his rival.

The women of Wyoming may now fill any office of the United States. They are not excluded from Congress, from the Senate, or even the Presidential chair.

Robert Turpin and Glen Daubin fired at each other with revolvers in Newbern, Alabama. Each fired five times. Turpin is dead, and Daubin wounded.

Jersey City has a law under which fines of 1000 lbs. each are to be imposed upon persons detected drinking malt or alcoholic liquors in her new bar.

Jane Dettmeridge, an orphan, of Jamaica, Miss Dettmeridge has good sense and 1,000,000 dollars.

The enthronement of the Right Rev. John Worran Festing, the new Bishop of St. Albans, is fixed for Tuesday, the 7th of October, at three o'clock, at St. Albans Cathedral.

While Mrs. Fanny Glulow, who had just returned from her picking, was crossing the line from one platform to another at Wolverhampton, she was knocked down by the engine of a goods train and killed.

A strange freak of nature, in connection with the recent Board of Agriculture in South Lancashire, in the district torn by the storm, lilac and pear trees have begun to blossom.

The Armenian girl, on the eve of her wedding, paints delicate flowers of celestial blue all over her breast and neck, and dyes her eyebrows black and her nails a bright orange.

Mr. George T. Morice has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of the Transvaal. This is the only appointment of an Englishman to a high position in the Republic since the late war.

Lord Rosebery has written intimating his willingness to accept the freedom of the City of Glasgow, and the ceremony will take place on the 10th of October next.

Charles Brown visited E. T. Murphy, in Seattle, Washington. On making an insulting remark to Mrs. Murphy, her husband drew a revolver and shot him, inflicting a fatal wound. All were under the influence of liquor.

The Charity Organisation conference will be held at Oxford on the 1st and 2nd of October. The subjects for discussion are "Methods and Experience in Charity Organisation," and the "Organisation of Medical Relief."

The National Health Society has established classes at seven centres throughout London, consisting of two courses of twelve lectures each, given by Dr. A. T. Schofield, on "Hygienic Education for Women." The classes are to begin in October, and will be continued until Christmas.

At Woodworth Green Farm, on Lord Toller-mache's Cheshire estate, a fine stock of forty-seven cows has been slaughtered under the supervision of a Board of Trade inspector.

This is the first case which has occurred in the county since the Pleuro-pneumonia Slaughter Act came into operation on the 1st inst.

The result of the post-mortem examination on the body of the young actress, Frauline Hock, who died suddenly at Berlin on Sunday, shows that death was caused by apoplexy consequent on fatty degeneration of the heart.

The doctors do not state whether this result was accelerated by the powder administered just previous to her death.

A model of the Eiffel Tower, a Paris coronation says, has been erected by a farmer of St. Hilaire in the Meuse, as a monument over the grave of his parents. It is 25ft. high, and is surmounted by a cross. There is a statue of St. Joseph on the first platform, and the names of the departed relatives are engraved on slabs fastened to the four shafts.

According to the return of metropolitan pauperism for the second week of September, the total number was 87,284, including 54,483 indoors, and 32,801 outdoors. The numbers in the 3 preceding years were—60,302, 91,488, and 89,764 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved in the metropolis was 771, including 605 men, 140 men, and 17 children.

Of the making of automatic machines there is no end. A Spaniard resident in London has patented an automatic boot-cleaning machine, and an automatic sight-testing machine is actually in course of construction.

In both cases the mechanism is set in motion by dropping a penny in the slot.

It has been decided at the War Office to maintain the encampment of the Foot Guards at Pibright during the winter season, in order to train the recruits in manueuvring there instead of at the ordinary Guards' recruit depot at Caterham, where the range is suitable for the use of the magazine rifle and not yet completed. The men will be quartered in huts during the inclement weather.

At Rochester County Court, Judge Homersham Cox decided, in the case of the bankruptcy of a large builder named Taylor, that a large under construction, upon which the purchaser had advanced £293 of the purchase money (although only £300 or £400 had been spent on it), was the property of the debtor, and must be attached by the official receiver for the benefit of the creditors at large.

Lady Wimborne opened at Poole on Wednesday a museum and museum which has been presented to the town by Mr. John Joseph Norton, who three years ago gave a free public library in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee. The present building has cost about £5,000. As a token of their appreciation of his services to the town, the council presented Mr. Norton with the honorary freedom of the borough, with a handsome silver case.

A meeting of country brewers was held on Wednesday, in London, to consider the disposition recently shown on the part of magistrates in various parts of the country to refuse to renew licences. It was decided that in cases where the licences of houses belonging to members of the Country Brewers' Society are refused renewal, solely on the ground that they are no longer necessary, the society would defray the cost of appealing.

In South-eastern Russia, when the affianced bride is given to her husband, she pays visits to the master and the inhabitants of the village in the simple dress of a peasant, and at each house begs pardon for the step she has taken—a request gracefully complied with—before her beautiful hair is cut off, and the old woman of the village invests her with the "platek," or turban, symbolic of her married condition.

A curious adventure has just befallen the Mayor of Truro. He was bathing at Perranporth, when he was approached by what appeared to be a fellow-bather. As the object came nearer, however, it turned out to be something more formidable, and Mr. Lawrence hastened ashore. Seeing, however, that the monster had got into shallow water, his wretchedness was increased, and he succeeded in taking by

the tail a porpoise about six feet long, which he

